



#14
an
y1a1a1

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

RONALDUS M. AARTS ET AL.

PHN 17,834

SERIAL NO.: 09/741,917

GROUP ART UNIT: 2654

FILED: December 20, 2000

EXAMINER: V.P. Harper

AUDIO SIGNAL PROCESSING DEVICE

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APR 08 2004

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

This is in response to the Office Action mailed February 3, 2004, in which the Examiner has rejected claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 09114479A to Masaharu et al. in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 07056497A to Atsushi et al.

Applicants traverse the above rejection and offer the following explanation.

The Masaharu et al. reference appears to disclose a sound filed reproducing device in which voice signals are extracted from an input stereo signal including voice signals and music signals, reflected sounds are added to the resulting music signals thereby expanding the sound field of the music signals, and then the